



Serving the communities of Chino, Montclair, Ontario and Pomona

September 2004

Hello friend,

As the legislative session winds down, my staff and I have been busy with a number of events in the district.

We had roughly 150 people attend the West Nile Virus townhall meeting on Aug. 14 in Ontario. Attendees were given a primer on West Nile Virus.

Min-Lee Cheng, P.h.D., district manager for the West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, provided a presentation that described how the virus originated (in Africa) and how it has progressed into the United States and California. He also shared valuable information on how to protect our families from west nile virus. Monte Vista Water District Director Maynard Lenhart discussed the role water, specifically stagnant water that collects in streets, yards and other areas, plays in the spread of the virus and what residents need to be on the look-out for.

I provided a brief explanation of my assembly bill, AB 1091, which will make it easier to diagnose, track, contain and treat the increased incidence of new and exotic diseases such as West Nile Virus. (A description of the bill will follow.)

There was an excellent turnout at my Alameda Corridor East Legislative hearing, as well. Five of seven of the select committee members were able to make the hearing, which, with all of our busy schedules, was exceptional attendance. We even had a good showing of community residents.

Representatives from Air Quality Management District, Caltrans, the development community, the railroads, SANBAG, the Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority and others were on hand to provide testimony on goods movements through the corridor that impact our quality of life in the Inland Empire.

Pomona Public Works Director Chris Vogt, who is overseeing some major ACE projects in his city, addressed the problems that increased rail traffic and resulting congestion poses to residents and businesses in Pomona as well as the affect on providing public safety and law enforcement.

Finally, about 50 business and community leaders attended my Business Roundtable Breakfast. Important questions were asked, I appreciate the opportunity to meet and mingle with everyone who showed up.

August was a productive month and I would like to thank everyone in the community and on staff who helped to make it so.

In this issue:

August wrap-up, p. 1

1091, fighting West Nile; p. 2

DMV News you can use; p.2

Thought for September; p. 2

September events:

Identity Theft Workshop, p. 3

Mobile District Offices, p. 3

Remembering who invented the weekend; p. 3

A message from the LA Count Fair Association; p. 4

AB 1091

AB 1091 will make it easier to diagnose, track, contain and treat the increased incidence of new and exotic diseases such as West Nile Virus, SARS and other potentially dangerous illnesses.

The bill does this by giving the Department of Health Services and local health officials the ability to identify such diseases in a more timely manner. These agencies will be able to develop and implement prevention strategies, provide education, conduct

research and make appropriate public health policy decisions in a more timely manner. The way the system works now, the Department of Health Services must add the disease by undergoing the regulatory process, which can take up to 18 months to complete. This is much too lengthy a time to react to serious health threats.

The bill was approved by the Senate July 1 and by the Assembly Aug 12.

Department of Motor Vehicles News

Inland Empire drivers who want to avoid the long lines at the Department of Motor Vehicles will no longer be forced to choose between paying an extra \$4 to register their vehicles over the Internet or mailing a check and hoping that it arrives.

The \$4 "convenience" fee was cancelled, the first of many changes within the DMV that will make doing business with the agency a little less painful.

The online option came about as a result of motorist demands to speed up operations at local DMV offices. Using the internet for DMV business also saves the state money.

Elimination of the fee will make the DMV more convenient and efficient.

Next on the reform list will be walk up terminals that will take cash, debit or credit cards and dispense renewals.

Another service that you may not know about, the DMV has a voice activated system that allows customers to make appointments or pay registration renewal fees over the phone. That number is 1-888-921-1117.

The DMV website is: www.dmv.ca.gov

For more information, contact my office at (909) 621-2783



Thought for September:

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Benjamin Franklin

Identity Theft Workshop

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer will join me September 18, 2004 for an Identity Theft workshop in Ontario.

Identity theft is on the increase in California. According to a recent study by the Federal Trade Commission, almost 10 million people were victims of identity theft. Chances are that you or someone you know have already been victimized.

Privacy and identity protection starts with informed consumers, which is why Attorney General Lockyer and I decided to team up on providing the information needed to reduce your risk.

What: Identity Theft Workshop

When: Saturday, Sept. 18,
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Where: DeAnza Community and Teen Center
1405 S. Fern
Ontario

Cross Street: Euclid Avenue and Phelps Street
DeAnza Park

Mobile District Office

As part of my ongoing outreach efforts, my staff will hit the streets Wednesday, September 15, 2004 to set up Mobile District Offices at various places in the District.

The purpose of the Mobile District Office is to facilitate services provided by the state that benefit constituents in the 61st Assembly District.

Stater Bros. has graciously offered to let us set up at four of its stores in the district. Please stop by to discuss legislative issues of importance to you and the community.

Times and Locations

9 – 10 a.m.: Stater Bros.
1045 N. Garey Avenue, Pomona

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.: Stater Bros.
9575 Central Avenue, Montclair

5 – 6 p.m.: Stater Bros.
1939 Fourth Street, Ontario

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.: Stater Bros.
646 Holt Blvd., Ontario,

Honor those who invented the weekend; *Celebrate Labor Day Sept. 6*

At the turn of the last century, employees had no “rights” to safe working conditions, fair wages, even, in many cases, to use the rest room during their long work hours. Work life was unpleasant at best and brutal at worst.

In one chilling example, 146 people (mostly women and girls) died March 25, 1911 in a fire at the Triangle Shirt waist Factory fire in New York. They were unable to escape their ninth floor inferno because all exit doors had been locked to prevent them from leaving their work stations. The fire escapes were inoperable, and the city fire department’s ladder trucks could not reach beyond the seventh floor. Those who didn’t jump to their deaths died in the ensuing inferno.

It wasn’t only adults who suffered. More than 2 million children were also forced to work in hot, stuffy sweatshops, dark, dangerous coal mines and factories and on the streets and shops.

The inhumane working conditions resulted in an uprising that led to the modern day labor movement. It is to those in the labor movement that many of us owe thanks.

Trade unions have long been the driving force in making the workplace what it is today, fighting for fair wages, better working conditions and protecting employees from arbitrary management decisions.

Unions provide employees a voice in both the workplace and the political arena, improve morale, and they helped to eliminate child labor and unsafe working conditions.

Unions have helped to lead America to become the prosperous, productive country that it is today.

The Labor movement gave Americans:

- Occupational health and safety standards
- The 8-hour work week
- The 40-hour work week
- Health and retirement benefits
- Child labor laws
- Minimum wage laws
- Workers’ compensation

MESSAGE FROM THE LA COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

Each September, since way back in 1922, a tradition as regular as the sparrows returning to Capistrano occurs in Pomona. It's the L.A. County Fair, a post-Labor Day ritual that makes an annual appearance for 17 days and provides one big party before saying goodbye to summer.

Fair dates are Sept. 10-26, and as always the Fair programming, variety and diversity is vast. Live thoroughbred horse racing runs concurrent with the Fair; a stakes race a day and a promotion a day provides an element of family fun to accompany the hoof-pounding action. The second Fairplex Park Hall of Fame induction will take place on Sunday, Sept. 12, when Old English Rancho will be honored.

The feature attraction, "The Beat Goes On!-The History of Popular Music," will provide visitors with a toe-tapping, yakky-yakking good time from blues to hip-hop. The visually stunning, hands-on exhibition will have the piano keyboard from the movie "Big;" the Red House Tour, a traveling exhibition that provides an intimate look at Jimi Hendrix, the man and his music; memorabilia; concert photos; posters and more. This exhibit is presented by AT&T Wireless.

The Big Red Barn once again opens its door and welcomes everyone in to meet the undisputed stars of the Fair-the goats, sheep, pigs, horses, cows and small stock.

Visit the "Colors of Mexico" at the incomparable Flower and Garden Pavilion. An exhibition hall that is breathtaking and visually stunning. Step outside and enjoy the hillside filled with patio, pools, yards and ideas for all. It smells great, too.

America's Kids and Education Expo, presented by Bank of America, take kids on a fun and educational trip around the world with an exhibit titled "Passport to the World." Hands-on activities abound with edutainment throughout the building.

In addition to floral beauty, the Fair presents a fun and whimsical look at love. The renowned Millard Sheets Gallery's art exhibition will feature love through the eyes and hands of a number of artists, a collection of letters from World War II and valentines from the Smithsonian, along with daily demonstrations and a photography exhibition 450-photos strong that also follows the theme, "Love: Whimsy and Wonder-Art from the Heart." Presented by Ameriquest Mortgage.

Eleven nights of entertainment means that the fun doesn't stop when the sun goes down. The End of Summer Concert Series at the Los Angeles Newspaper Group Grandstand Stage has a program that's designed for "feet clapping" and smiling and most of all very affordable entertainment. Entertainers WAR to Willie Nelson to Monster Truck Madness to Hoobastank can be found at 8 p.m., which is showtime. Check the Web site at www.lacountyfair.com <<http://www.lacountyfair.com>> for a complete lineup. While general admission seating to the shows are free with Fair admission reserved seating is also available from \$15-\$22.

One of the Fair's indisputable traditions is the array of food, food and more food, some of which is only available during the annual Fair. Three hundred food booths offer a cornucopia of selections.

Two new restaurants, both full-service, will join in the mix this year. Avalon, formerly Anthony's at the Fair, will sport a new look and a new menu and be open daily with family style menus also available. Brand new Las Costillas de Sancho, located near the Flower and Garden Pavilion has a menu featuring ribs, steaks and Mexican food under the watchful eye and culinary genius of executive chef Pedro Curiel from Aguascalientes, Mexico.

Shopping at the Fair is unlike any other shopping experience; more than 2,000 commercial vendors bring their products to the Fair. Tried and true products make an appearance, but each year there are new services and merchandise, some of which are making their debuts, which allows buyers to be the first on the block to brag of ownership.

A Tapestry of Tradition, the Fair's creative arts department will be set up in its new home at The Village on Broadway. Located on the ground floor of the grandstand the award-winning jams, jellies, cakes, pies, cookies, quilts, and a plethora of on-the-spot contests will remind visitors of the origin of county fairs.

Advance sales tickets, group sales tickets, group picnics, day at the races packages and a number of promotions are also available to guests. Check the Web site at lacountyfair.com for a complete listing of events, prices and hours. It's just here for 17 days and once it's gone...